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1 NOV 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Washington Star Articles, "Big Soviet Wheat Deal," Part 3
(31 October 1972)

1. The third in the Star series concentrates on the "game" of export subsidies and is a good primer on this esoteric subject. The author's futile attempts to extract from grain company spokesmen information on the exact timing of their subsidy applications, sales, and purchases illustrate how very closed this subject is both to the public and to the government. There seems to be no way of checking the companies' claims that the Soviets were the real recipients of any windfall gain and that the companies will make little or no profits on the deal because they were caught without ample stocks of wheat.

2. OER has no special expertise on US subsidies, but the article appears generally accurate.

Deputy Director
Economic Research

Attachment:

Washington Star Article
"The Big Wheat Deal--3"

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